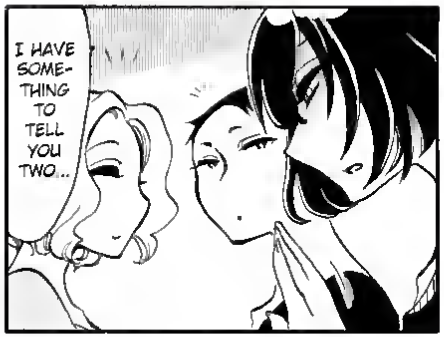
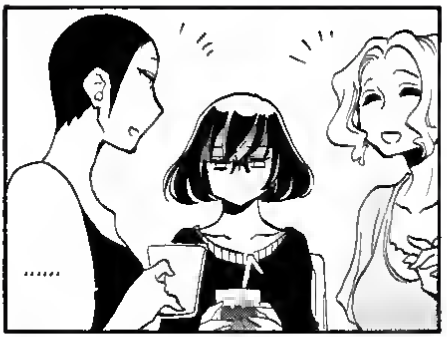

I HAVE SOME-THING TO TELL YOU TWO...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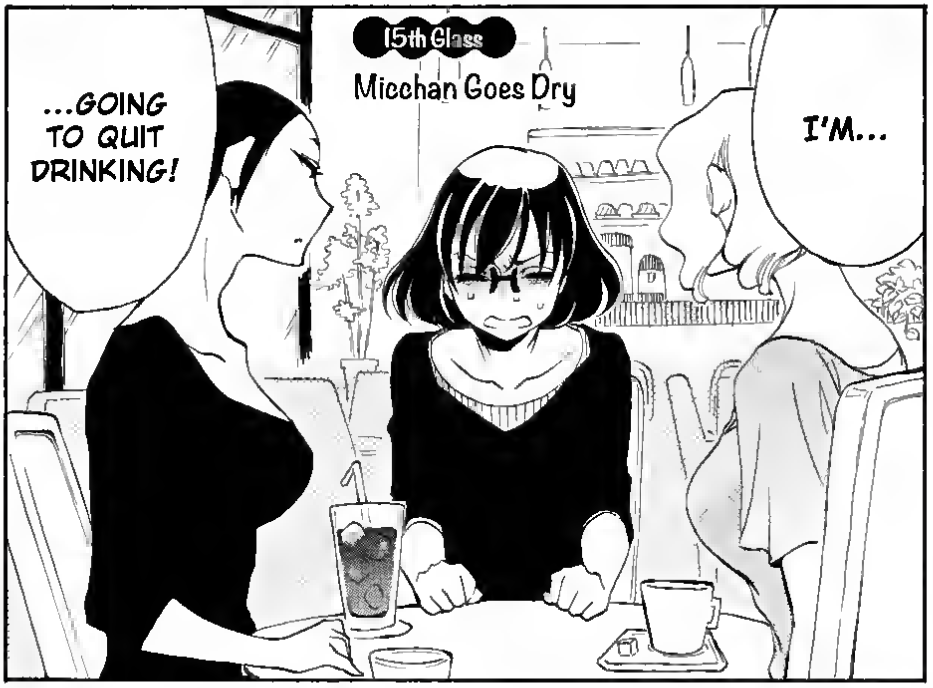
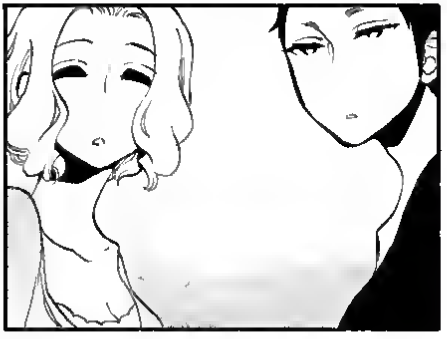
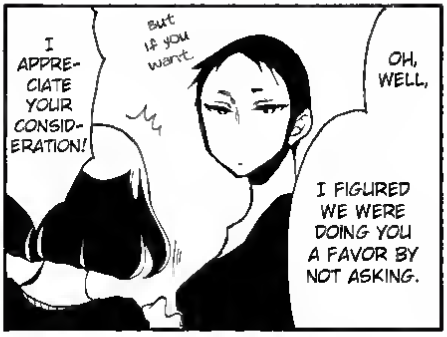
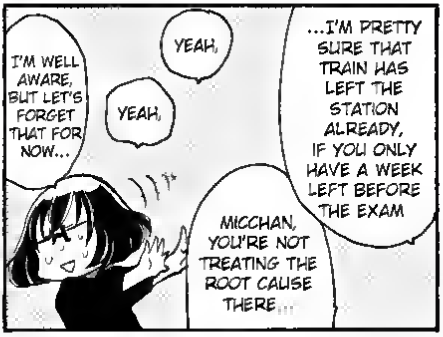

15th Glass
Micchan Goes Dry
...GOING TO QUIT DRINKING!
I'M...

EH,
UH,
OKAY.
COME ON...
ASK ME WHY
GOOD LUCK!

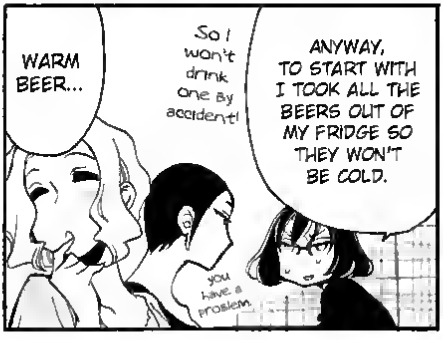


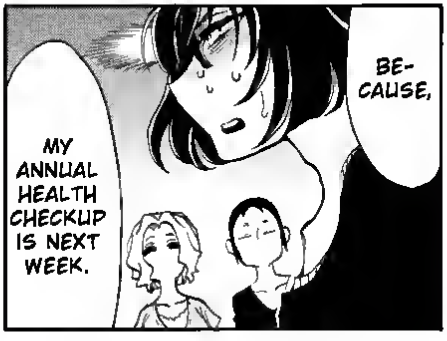
What am I, brinstar?
WELL, REMEMBER HOW MY URIC ACID LEVELS WERE JUST AN EENSY BIT HIGH LAST YEAR?

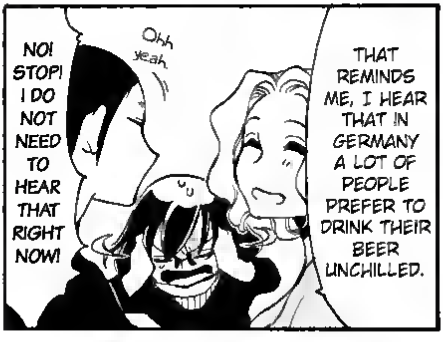

I APPRE-CIATE YOUR CONSID-ERATION!
but if you want...
OH, WELL,
I FIGURED WE WERE DOING YOU A FAVOR BY NOT ASKING.

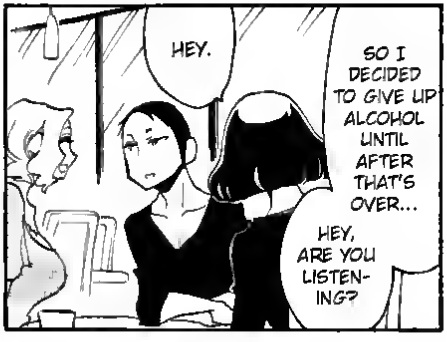

I'M WELL AWARE, BUT LET'S FORGET THAT FOR NOW...
YEAH,
YEAH,
MICCHAN, YOU'RE NOT TREATING THE ROOT CAUSE THERE...
...I'M PRETTY SURE THAT TRAIN HAS LEFT THE STATION ALREADY, IF YOU ONLY HAVE A WEEK LEFT BEFORE THE EXAM

FINE, I'LL ASK, I'LL ASK. SO, WHY ARE YOU QUITTING?
tug tug
BUT NO, PLEASE ASK ME...


WARM BEER...
So I won't drink one by accident!
you have a problem.
ANYWAY, TO START WITH I TOOK ALL THE BEERS OUT OF MY FRIDGE SO THEY WON'T BE COLD.

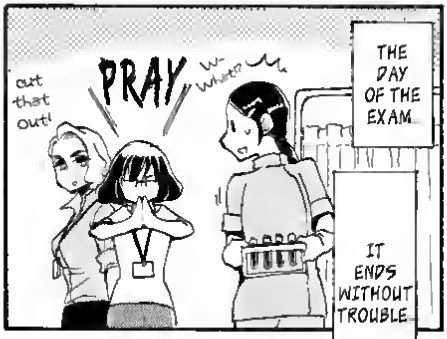

MY ANNUAL HEALTH CHECKUP IS NEXT WEEK.
BE-CAUSE,

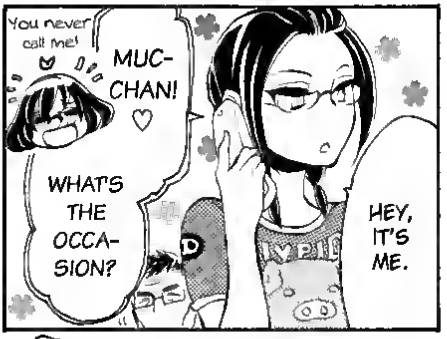

NO! STOP! I DO NOT NEED TO HEAR THAT RIGHT NOW!
Ohh yeah.
THAT REMINDS ME, I HEAR THAT IN GERMANY A LOT OF PEOPLE PREFER TO DRINK THEIR BEER UNCHILLED.

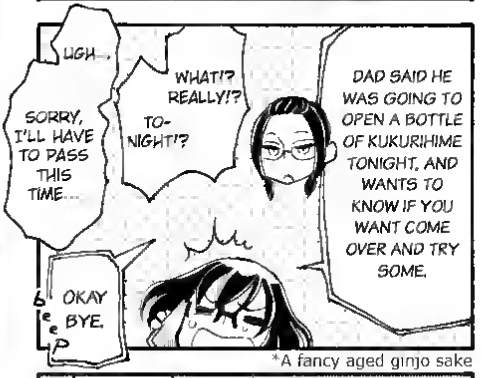

HEY.
SO I DECIDED TO GIVE UP ALCOHOL UNTIL AFTER THAT'S OVER...
HEY, ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?

OH, YAMASHITA, ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT DRINKING PARTY THAT'S COMING UP...
CLATTER
DRINK?
WHAT!? MICHIKO, YOU'RE GIVING UP DRINKING!?
FOR REAL!?
TURN
WHAT?
ONLY FOR A WEEK?
SO FOR TONIGHT, DO YOU WANT TO HIT UP THAT YAKITORI PLACE I WAS TALKING ABOUT?
TWITCH
YEAH, SOUNDS GOOD!
DROP
HUH?
OH... A WEEK...
OH, YOU'RE GOING TO STOP DRINKING? GOOD FOR YOU, TAKASE!
...MAYBE WE SHOULD HOLD OFF UNTIL AFTER THE CHECKUP TOO...
I'm starting to feel bad for her...
Uh huh
Ahh! My hundred yen coin!
MIC-CHAN...
THERE ARE A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO DON'T EVEN DRINK ONCE A MONTH...
...WHY DOES EVERYONE REACT LIKE THAT?

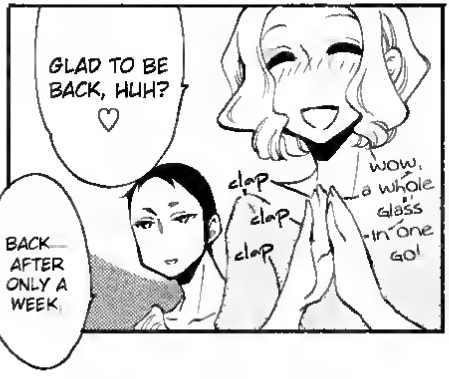
NOTHING BEATS A COLD BEER AFTER A BA-...
THIS TEA SURE IS TASTY!
AHHH, FINALLY MADE IT BACK HOME.
SO TIRED...
AND THE WEEK'S ONLY HALFWAY OVER...
phew~
DINNER AND A BEE-...
THIS TEA SURE IS TASTY!
SLAM!!
OH NO... I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE I SHOULD BE MAKING SOME SERIOUS LIFESTYLE CHANGES HERE...
In Germany, they drink beer unchilled... unchilled... unchilled
AUGH! STOP WITH THE HALLU-CINA-TIONS!
TH-THAT WAS CLOSE...
Good thing I took them all out already
I WENT FOR A BEER WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT...





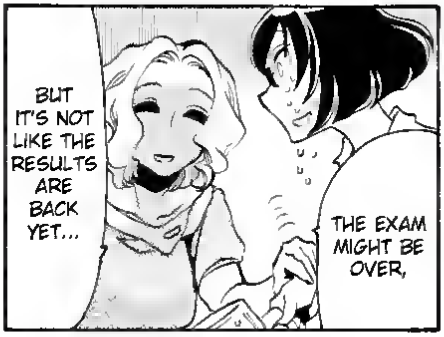

UGH...
SORRY, I'LL HAVE TO PASS THIS TIME...
WHAT!? REALLY!? TO-NIGHT!?
DAD SAID HE WAS GOING TO OPEN A BOTTLE OF KUKURIHIME TONIGHT, AND WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU WANT COME OVER AND TRY SOME.
OKAY BYE.
beep

*A fancy aged ginjo sake

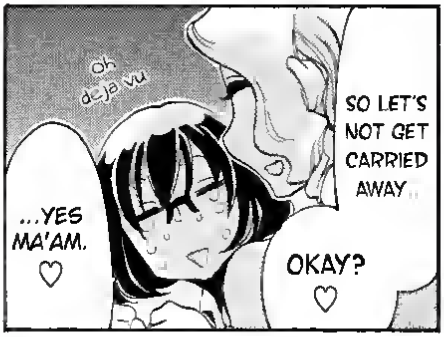


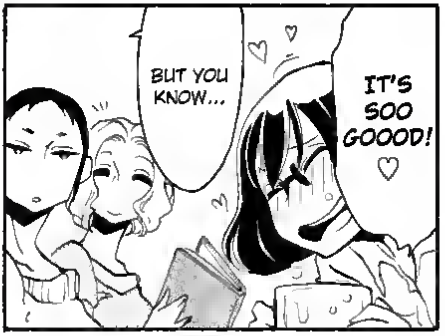
MICCHAN.
nudge
OKAY, BRING ME ANOTH-ER!

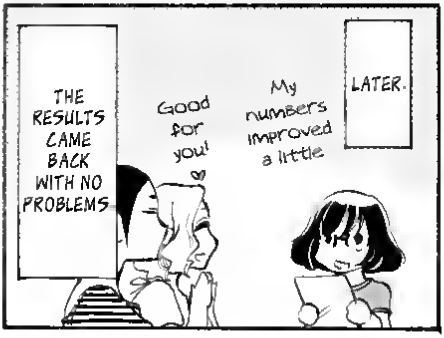
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG


BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THE RESULTS ARE BACK YET...
THE EXAM MIGHT BE OVER,

AHH!


oh déjà vu
...YES MA'AM.
SO LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY...
OKAY?


BUT YOU KNOW...
IT'S SOO GOOOD!


THE RESULTS CAME BACK WITH NO PROBLEMS
Good for you!
My numbers improved a little
LATER.

that's not a compli-ment is it?
HUH? WHAT?
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT TOO.
IT MUST BE NICE, BEING ABLE TO ENJOY A BEER THAT MUCH JUST BY HOLDING OFF ON IT FOR ONE WEEK.

Anything but that...
UGH
Micchan, you should probably make time for a checkup every few months instead of just once a year

Credits

Author&Artist: Ukatsu

Notes

The uric acid thing is a referencing chapter one, the last time she had an annual checkup.
Which means a year has passed!
But they are still 29

So, Japan has a universal healthcare system. Part of this system offers "free" (for you) annual health examinations through your employer. Usually you get a day or half day off work to go. It's nice. You can get exams like this at other times during the year on your own time and dime too, of course, if you want (it's pretty cheap too)

High levels of uric acid, as a reminder, can be caused by excessive consumption of beer, and can lead to gout. Gout is bad.

Brinstar is that Metroid level in Smash Bros. with the acid

That wasn't the original joke though, just the best I could come up with.
The word for uric acid levels in Japanese is "Nyousanchi"(尿酸値).
"Sanchi" (SAN値) also refers to your sanity score in Call of Cthulhu, and is a word popularized in Japan (among nerds anyway) by the OP song of the "Haiyore! Nyaruko-san W" anime, and specifically the line "Sanchi Pinch!", meaning your SAN score is a bad spot.
Micchan says basically "My nyousanchi is in a pinch."

＼(・ω・＼)SAN値!(/・ω・)/ピンチ!

youtube link to the OP: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PxnTy6CcCU
and to a "10 minutes of sanchi pinch" video: https://youtu.be/gYXt3Mt7WS0

Japan, like the US, generally drinks its beer very cold.
As I understand it, Germany (along with many other parts of Europe) drinks its beer "warm", usually something around 50° F, or "cellar temperature", which is where beer is/was traditionally stored.

It's very common for businesses to have drinking parties for employees (though usually they aren't official, and just organized by whoever). Some people like em, some people don't, but it's usually bad for your career if you turn them down on the reg.
Usually the higher up the corporate chain a person is, the larger the share of the bill they will pay (so newbies will pay very little).

Yakitori means basically "grilled chicken", and refers typically to charcoal grilled chicken skewers.
Yakitori is an extremely popular food and can be found basically everywhere in Japan.
Goes well with beer.

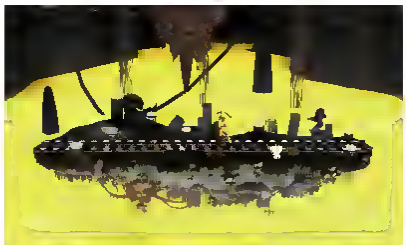
Coins in Japan go:
1 yen -> 5 yen -> 10 yen -> 50 yen -> 100 yen -> 500 yen
Bills go: 1,000 yen -> 5,000 yen -> 10,000 yen
As far as spending power in-country goes, 100 yen is pretty close to 1 USD.
(vending machines are usually 100~120 yen for a drink for instance)
Most people still pay for most things with cash in Japan (though credit cards have been catching on, and some banks are offering debit cards now), so coins get used a lot.
Many Japanese wallets have little coin pouches built into them.

Micchan was drinking barley tea, a common staple in many Japanese refrigerators.

Kukurihime is a sake made by Konchikitai (another brewer from Ishikawa).
It's expensive (25,000 yen a bottle), aged 10+ years, and is a "Ginjo" sake, meaning the rice used in making it was significantly polished first, with at least 40% of the grain having been removed. This polishing removes the relatively protein&fat-rich outer part of the grain, leaving the starch-rich core that is ideal for sake brewing.
(There is also "Daiginjo", where 50%+ was polished off, and "Honjozo" where at least 30% was polished off.)

The name "Kukurihime" comes from a Shinto kami of the same name.
There's a manga by that name too, but I don't know anything about it!

Brinstar



Example Company drinking party

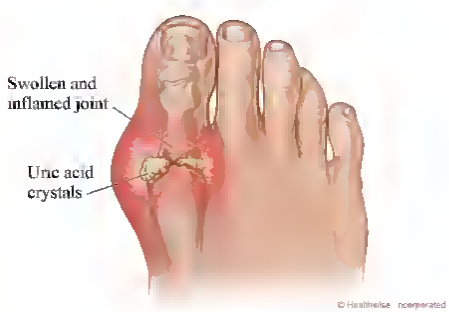
＼(・ω・＼)SAN値!(/・ω・)/ピンチ!

Japanese Coins and Bills

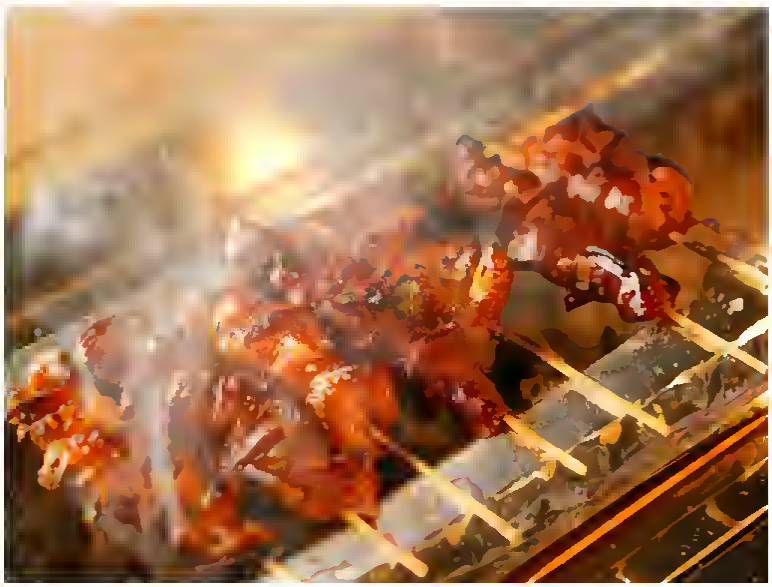
Rice polished to varying degrees

A bottle of Kukurihime

looks painful



Yakitori



More Yakitori (and some veggies)

Beer